

Appl. No. 10/821,165

Amendment dated February 23, 2005

Reply to Non-Final Office Action of November 15, 2004

REMARKSClaim Objections

Claims 40 and 57-64 were objected to for alleged informalities. Claim 40 as filed did not conclude with a period. This error has been corrected above. Claims 57-64 were objected to for reciting "mol." Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

"Mol" is a commonly used and recognized abbreviation or synonym for "mole" and is not a misspelling of the latter. "A very common measure of the amount of a substance is the mole (abbreviated mol)." P.W. Atkins, Physical Chemistry, at 10 (2d ed., 1982). The McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Chemistry (1997) contains the following entry at page 255:

mole [chemistry] An amount of a substance of a system which contains as many elementary units as there are atoms of carbon in 0.012 kilogram of the pure nuclide carbon-12; the elementary unit must be specified and may be an atom, molecule, ion, electron, photon, or even a specified group of such units. Symbolized mol. {möl}

Likewise, Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary (1991) contains the following entry at page 764:

mole also mol \möl\ n[...](1902): the amount of pure substance that contains the same number of elementary entities as there are atoms in exactly 12 grams of the isotope carbon 12

Thus "mol" is not a misspelling of "mole" and requires no correction.

Claim Rejections

The claims now pending are 1-46, 53-54, and 56-73, claims 47-52 and 55 having been canceled by amendment above. Certain elements of the canceled claims have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 17, and 73. In particular, these claims now recite film thicknesses of 300 to 5000 μm and call for enclosures comprising one or more materials selected from the group consisting of polyacrylamides, oxazoline polymers, polystyrenesulfonates, polyurethanes, polyesters, graft polymers, and mixtures thereof. These new elements are drawn directly from the canceled claims 51, 53, and 55 and add no new matter to the application.

Claims 1-46 and 55-73 had been rejected as anticipated by or obvious over U.S. 4,155,971 (Wysong). Claims 1-48, 51-52, and 55-72 were also rejected as anticipated by or obvious over GB 1,330,745 (GB '745). Lastly, claims 1-73 were rejected as anticipated by or obvious over U.S. 4,886,615 (Dehan). These rejections should not be maintained over the claims as amended.

Wysong discloses water-soluble films of 0.5 to 10 mils thickness (12.7 to 254 μm) comprising a specific combination of PVA and optionally a copolymer of PVA and a small portion of ethylenically unsaturated ester. The use of other polymers is neither mentioned nor suggested nor does Wysong disclose or suggest thicker films, having thicknesses of 300 to 5000 μm . Therefore the claims as amended are patentable over Wysong.

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GB '745 also discloses water-soluble films of 0.5 to 10 mils thickness comprising PVA and PVP. Again, there is no teaching or suggestion of the film thicknesses or film compositions now claimed.

Dehan discloses a multicomponent sachet for liquid non-aqueous laundry detergent portions. The first component is an outer pouch or bag of water-permeable or porous water-insoluble film or fabric, containing an inner pouch or bag of a water-soluble or dispersible, liquid impermeable film. The latter can have a thickness of 4 to 100 mils (approx. 100-2500 μm) and can comprise PVA, polyethylene oxide, methylcellulose, gelatine, polysaccharides, or polyacrylic acid. While the reference does disclose film thicknesses overlapping applicants' ranges, the claims are novel because they recite polymers not taught by Dehan. In addition, there is no suggestion to one of skill to select the polymers of Applicants' claims. Therefore the rejection of the claims over Dehan should not be maintained.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. Should any fees be due for entry and consideration of this Amendment that have not been

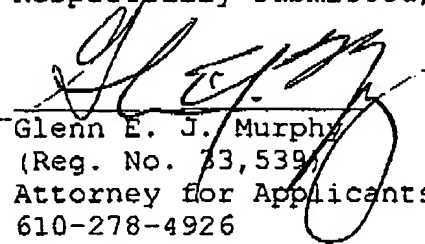
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accounted for, the Commissioner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures

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